

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 10/541,019 (Q88424)

REMARKS

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner issues a restriction requirement to one of the inventions of the following groups:

- Group I - Claims 1-14 and 17, drawn to a pharmaceutical preparation;
- Group II - Claims 15-16, drawn to a method for formulating a pharmaceutical preparation;
- Group III - Claim 18, drawn to a method for enhancing gastrointestinal absorbability; or
- Group IV - Claim 19, drawn to method for using a pH-sensitive polymer.

The Examiner contends that restriction is proper because the inventions do not relate to a single general inventive concept that has a common technical feature patentable over the prior art, i.e., the Examiner contends that US Patent 5,654,004 teaches a pharmaceutical preparation targeted for the digestive tract and comprising a pH-sensitive polymer (Claim 1) and compounds recognized by proton-coupled transporters as peptides (Claim 7).

Accordingly, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I, i.e., Claims 1-14 and 17 without traverse.

Applicants hereby cancel the non-elected Claims without prejudice to the filing of a Divisional thereon.

Applicants note that the Examiner states that if Applicants elect claims directed to a product, and such are found to be

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allowable, withdrawn process claims which are dependent on an allowable product claim (or include all of the limitations therein), will be rejoined upon request.

In view of the amendments to Claims 18-19 to be dependent on Claims 1 and 17, rejoinder is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number on any questions which might arise.

Respectfully submitted,

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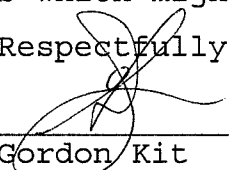
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